

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 OIC-04 NEA-10 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /179 W

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P R 180750Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 5154

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO 18TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 184665; B) BANGKOK 14522

1. REF A -- ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT BIRCH (DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS) SAYS GOA COUNCIL MEMBER SENATOR DONALD WILLESEE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO RAISE ANY TOPICS OUTSIDE AGENDA OF COUNCIL MEETING. BIRCH SAID GOA WAS SURPRISED BY THAI INTENTION TO RAISE AT STAG DINNER THREE SUBJECTS WHICH APPEARED IRRELEVANT TO COUNCIL AGENDA.

2. GOA FORESEES NO PROBLEMS AT MEETING UNLESS THAIS FAIL TO ABIDE BY COMPROMISE PACKAGE AGREED IN BANGKOK, INCLUDING RESOLUTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ISSUE. BIRCH SAID GOA HAS NO REASON TO EXPECT GOT TO RENIG ON AGREEMENTS REACHED.

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3. REF B -- WE HAVE ONE COMMENT REGARDING PARA 6 OF

AMBASSADOR UNGER'S EXCELLENT SUMMARY CABLE ON COUNCIL
MEETING. WHITLAM STATES PUBLICLY THAT A REMODELED
SEATO CONTINUES TO BE USEFUL BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF
SEATO TO THAILAND, AN ARGUMENT WE HAVE OFTEN USED.
HOWEVER, WE EXPECT HIS REAL REASON FOR AGREEING TO
CONTINUE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION, WHICH IS UNPOPULAR IN
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY, IS QUITE SIMPLY THAT USG
APPEARS TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO
SEATO AND NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AMPLY
DEMONSTRATED ITS INDEPENDENCE OF US ON OTHER ISSUES.
GREEN

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